## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-142 (Cancelled).

143.    (Currently Amended) ~~For use with in a~~ In a computing system having access to local and remote resources, a computer-implemented method for displaying a user interface for ~~displaying~~ providing selectable links to local and remote resources in a manner that allows a user to easily find and select a desired resource without the user being aware of a source location of the resource, the ~~user interface~~ method comprising:

displaying on a display device a top-level page having a hierarchical links region having a plurality of hierarchical categories therein, each of the hierarchical categories being visible upon initial display of the top-level page, and each of the hierarchical categories comprising:

a category heading identifying a logical relationship between a plurality of resources, the category heading having a link therewith which, upon selection, opens a category page identifying a plurality of resources which have the logical relationship associated with the category heading; and

displayed in association with a corresponding category heading, a list of a plurality of resources having the logical relationship identified by the corresponding category heading, wherein the logical relationship of the plurality of resources in the list and on the category page are unrelated to a source location of the resources, and wherein each item in the list comprises a link to a corresponding one of the plurality of resources;

wherein each category heading of the top-level page and the respective list of a plurality of resources for each category heading are both visible upon the initial display of the top-level page.

144.    (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~method as recited in claim 143, wherein the plurality of hierarchical categories includes a programs category.

145.    (Currently Amended) A method ~~user interface~~ as recited in claim 143, wherein the plurality of hierarchical categories includes a web resources category.

146.    (Currently Amended) A method ~~user interface~~ as recited in claim 143, wherein the plurality of hierarchical categories includes a recent documents category.

147.    (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~ method as recited in claim 143, wherein the plurality of hierarchical categories includes a recent programs category.

148.    (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~ method as recited in claim 143, wherein the plurality of hierarchical categories includes an activity center category, and wherein the list of resources associated with the activity center category links to a plurality of activity center category pages, each of the plurality of activity center category pages having a particular theme and identifying local and remote resources related by the particular theme.

149.    (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~ method as recited in claim 143, wherein the hierarchical links region further comprises a local computing system category for exploring resources locally available on the computing system according to source location of the resources.

150.    (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~ method as recited in claim 143, wherein the hierarchical links region further comprises a search category, the search category having a corresponding search heading and search input field.

151.    (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~ method as recited in claim 143, wherein each category page includes a plurality of hierarchical categories displayed upon the initial display of the category page, the plurality of hierarchical categories of the category page each including a category heading and a related listing of resources.

152.   (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~ method as recited in claim 151, wherein at least some of the plurality of category headings of the category page are the same as the category headings of the top-level page, and wherein at least one of the plurality of category headings is specific to the particular category page.

153.   (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~ method as recited in claim 152, wherein the category headings of the category page include corresponding lists of resources related by a logical relationship identified by the corresponding category heading, such that the lists of resources corresponding to the plurality of category headings of the category page which are the same as the category headings of the top-level page identify a filtered list of resources from the corresponding category heading of the top-level page, the filtering being done according to the logical relationship associated with the category page.

154.   (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~ method as recited in claim 151, wherein the category page identifies a plurality of tasks specific to the category page.

155.   (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~ method as recited in claim 143, wherein the plurality of resources include resources that are local to the computing system and resources that are remotely located.

156.   (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~ method as recited in claim 143, wherein the top-level page further comprises a customizable header.

157.   (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~ method as recited in claim 156, wherein the customizable header includes a link which, upon user selection, allows a user to customize the header.

158.   (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~ method as recited in claim 143, wherein the top-level page has a default size setting.

159.    (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~ method as recited in claim 158, wherein the default setting is maximization of an entire display device associated with the computing system.

160.    (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~ method as recited in claim 158, wherein the default setting is to view the lists without scrolling.

161.    (Currently Amended) A method ~~user interface~~ as recited in claim 143, wherein displaying the top-level page ~~is configured to be initiated~~ further comprises displaying the top-level page upon receipt of user selection of a start button on an operating system.

162.    (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~method as recited in claim 143, wherein displaying the top-level page further comprises displaying the top-level page ~~is configured to be initiated~~ automatically upon start-up of the operating system.

163.    (Currently Amended) A ~~user interface~~ method as recited in claim 143, wherein the list of a plurality of resources comprises a predetermined number of resources, and wherein the list further comprises a link to access additional related resources.

164.    (Currently Amended) In a computing system having a display device and access to local and remote resources, a method for providing a user with selectable links to local and remote resources in a manner that allows a user to easily find and select a desired resource without the user being aware of a source location of the resource, the method comprising:

registering a plurality of local and remote resources at the computing system, wherein registering includes identifying one or more logical relationships between the resources; and

displaying a user interface which provides links to at least some of the plurality of local and remote resources registered at the computing system, wherein the user interface includes:

a shell interface having a hierarchical links region having a plurality of hierarchical categories therein, each of the hierarchical categories being visible upon initial display of the shell interface, and each of the hierarchical categories comprising:

a top-level category heading identifying a logical relationship between a plurality of resources, the top-level category heading having a link thereon which, upon selection, opens a category page identifying a plurality of resources which have the logical relationship associated with the top-level category heading; and

displayed in association with a corresponding category heading, a lower-level list of a plurality of resources having the logical relationship identified by the corresponding category heading, wherein the logical relationship of the plurality of resources in the list and on the category page is unrelated to a source location of the resources, and wherein each item in the list comprises a link to a corresponding one of the plurality of resources;

wherein each top-level category heading and the lower-level list of the plurality of resources for each top-level category heading is visible upon the initial display of the shell interface.

165.    (Previously Presented)        A method as recited in claim 164, wherein the plurality of hierarchical categories includes a programs category.

166.    (Previously Presented)        A method as recited in claim 164, wherein the plurality of hierarchical categories includes a web resources category.

167.    (Previously Presented)        A method as recited in claim 164, wherein the plurality of hierarchical categories includes a recent documents category.

168.    (Previously Presented)        A method as recited in claim 164, wherein the plurality of hierarchical categories includes a recent programs category.

169.    (Previously Presented)        A method as recited in claim 164, wherein the plurality of hierarchical categories includes an activity center category, and wherein the list of resources associated with the activity center category links to a plurality of activity center category pages, each of the plurality of activity center category pages having a particular theme, and each activity center category page identifying local and remote resources related to the particular theme.

170.    (Previously Presented)        A method as recited in claim 164, the method further comprising:

    receiving a signal indicative of user selection of a link in the hierarchical links region; and

    taking action in response to the signal.

171.    (Previously Presented)        A method as recited in claim 170, wherein receiving user selection of a link comprises receiving user selection of a link associated with a category heading.

172. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 171, wherein taking action in response to the signal comprises opening a lower level category page, the lower-level category page identifying a plurality of resources having a relationship associated with the category heading of the shell interface.

173. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 172, wherein the plurality of resources ~~on the lower-level category page~~ are organized into hierarchical lists, each hierarchical list being associated with a sub-category heading.

174. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 173, wherein a plurality of the sub-category headings are the same as the category headings of the shell interface, and wherein the list of resources associated with the sub-category are a filtered list of resources associated with the same category heading of the shell interface.

175. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 174, wherein the list of resources are filtered according to a relationship associated with the category heading.

176. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 173, the method further comprising receiving user selection indicative of link associated with a category sub-heading and, in response, taking action to open a still lower-level sub-category page identifying a plurality of resources having a relationship associated with the sub-category heading of the category page.

177. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 170, wherein receiving user selection of a link comprises receiving user selection of a resource from one of the lists of the plurality of resources.

178. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 177, wherein taking action in response to the signal comprises opening a resource.

179. (Previously Presented)     A method as recited in claim 177, wherein taking action in response to the signal comprises starting an application associated with a selected resource.

180. (Previously Presented)     A method as recited in claim 177, wherein taking action in response to the signal comprises opening a folder.

181. (Previously Presented)     A method as recited in claim 177, wherein taking action in response to the signal comprises opening a lower-level page.

182. (Previously Presented)     A method as recited in claim 177, wherein taking action in response to the signal comprises creating a document.

183. (Previously Presented)     A method as recited in claim 177, wherein taking action in response to the signal comprises using a resource as a target.

184. (Previously Presented)     A method as recited in claim 177, wherein taking action in response to the signal comprises associating metadata with a resource.

185. (Previously Presented)     A method as recited in claim 177, wherein taking action in response to the signal comprises displaying settings of an external device.

186. (Previously Presented)     A method as recited in claim 164, wherein the shell interface is programmed according to an HTML format.

187. (Previously Presented)     A method as recited in claim 164, the method further comprising:

    receiving user selection of a start button on a desktop of the computing system, and

    wherein displaying the user interface is performed in response to receiving the user selection of the start button.

188.   (Previously Presented)     A method as recited in claim 164, wherein displaying the user interface is performed automatically upon start-up of the computing system.

189.   (Previously Presented)     A computer readable medium having computer executable-instructions that when implemented by a computing system, cause the computing system to perform the method recited in claim 164.

190.    (Currently Amended) A computing system for providing a user with selectable links to access local and remote resources in a manner that allows a user to easily find and select a desired resource without the user being aware of a source location of the resource, the computing system comprising:

a processing unit;

one or more storage media having computer-executable instructions executable by the processing unit, the computer-executable instructions including:

an operating system; and

a user interface configured to be displayed in connection with the start-up of the operating system, the user interface comprising a top-level page having a hierarchical links region having a plurality of hierarchical categories therein, each of the hierarchical categories being visible upon initial display of the top-level page, and each of the hierarchical categories comprising:

a category heading identifying a logical relationship between a plurality of resources, the category heading having a link therewith which, upon selection, opens a category page lower in level as compared to the top-level page, the category page identifying a plurality of resources which have the logical relationship associated with the category heading; and

associated with a corresponding category heading, a list of a plurality of local and remote resources having the logical relationship identified by the corresponding category heading, wherein the logical relationship of the plurality of resources in the list and on the category page are unrelated to a source location of the resources, and wherein each item in the list comprises a link to a corresponding one of the plurality of resources;

wherein each category heading and the respective list of a plurality of local and remote resources for each corresponding category heading are visible upon the initial display of the top-level page;

a storage device storing the plurality of local resources;

an association database storing relationships between the local and remote resources; and

a display device configured to render and display the user interface to a user.

191. (Previously Presented) A computing system as recited in claim 189, the system further comprising a favorites folder stored in at least one of the storage device and the association database, the favorites folder having subfolders therein corresponding to hierarchical categories on the top-level page.